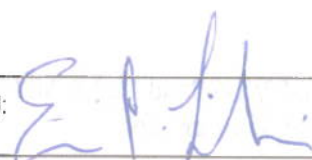




Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: Bicycle Use	Number 060-P 7.11.1
	Effective August 25, 1995
	Supersedes
Approved: 	Department: Parks and Recreation
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PREFACE

This policy has been developed because bicycling on park roads, trails, and within park areas has become an extremely popular recreational activity. The increasing use of mountain bicycles has created a need to develop management policies to reduce conflicts with other park users and reduce negative impacts on park resources. Sensitive natural areas, such as: Ravenna, Carkeek, Woodland Park, Seward, Schmitz, Washington Park Arboretum, Waterfront Trail, Camp Long, Discovery Park, and Interlaken have been damaged by excessive bicycle use and must be protected.

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To establish a policy for responsible bike use in Seattle Parks system.

2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

- 2.1 Department of Parks and Recreation

3.0 REFERENCES

4.0 POLICY

- 4.1 Bicycles will be allowed in Seattle parks on roads and paths designed for shared use (60 inches in width), or where high use will not adversely impact sensitive environments.
- 4.2 All bicycles are prohibited off roads and paths in environmentally sensitive or natural areas within Seattle parks such as wetlands, streams, meadows, newly forested sites or steep slopes where bicycle use could cause damage to plants, soils, streams or natural elements of the park land.
- 4.3 Bicycle use is prohibited in Camp Long.

- 4.4 Bicycles will be operated at a safe speed, especially when passing other users, and in a responsible manner as determined by Department staff. The code of behavior or conduct contained in this policy is required of all wheeled device operators using Seattle park lands.
- 4.5 Bicycles are restricted to paved surfaces only at Discovery Park, Schmitz Park, and in the Washington Park Arboretum.
- 4.6 Bicycle use in Ravenna, Carkeek, Seward, Interlaken, Lincoln and Woodland Parks, and in natural areas and greenbelts will be restricted to trails 60 inches wide or greater.
- 4.7 Bicycle riding is restricted from docks, floats and connecting ramps, including the Arboretum Waterfront Trail, because of danger to the bicyclist as well as the general public using those facilities, and deterioration of the waterfront wood chip trail surface.
- 4.8 The Superintendent has the discretion to designate specific trails as either limited to pedestrian use only or allowed for pedestrian and bicycle use, regardless of trail width. The Superintendent can only do so after public review by the Park Board.
- 4.9 This policy is not intended to prohibit the use of wheelchairs by disabled persons or strollers anywhere in parks. Bicycle users may dismount and walk bicycles on established trails where bicycle use is prohibited.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Bicycles or any wheeled, non-motorized device which is operator-propelled and transports the operator on land. Examples include, but are not limited to bicycles (mountain bicycles), tricycles, quadcycles, and scooters.
- 5.2 Bicyclist Code of Behavior: Sections of the National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA) in their "Off-Road Cyclist's Code":

Always yield the right of way - even if, at times, it seems inconvenient.

Pass with care - let others know of your presence well in advance.

Stay on permitted trails - riding cross-country damages the landscape.

Control your speed - safe speeds are relative to the terrain and your experience as a rider.

Don't litter - pack out what you pack in.

Other guidelines are:

Ride within your capabilities.

Walk your bike in congested areas.

Obey bicycle and other regulatory signs.

Supervise and instruct youngsters in the proper techniques of cycling.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of all Department of Parks and Recreation staff to monitor and ensure these policies are carried out. Each affected Director will assign staff to inspect impacted parks and recommend appropriate actions to the Superintendent including closure of an area or park.
- 6.2 The Park Resource Managers are responsible to have signs made and installed as needed, to control and direct bicycle use in parks.
- 6.3 The Recreation Information Office will keep a log of complaints involving bicycles and report to Park Resource Managers particular problems and trends.
- 6.4 Prior to closing any new park or trails to bicycle use, the Superintendent will notify the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, the Seattle area mountain bicycle clubs and interested community groups. Also, the Park Board will hold a public hearing prior to the Superintendent taking such action.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the Engineering and Design section to prepare a bicycle use sign manual with layouts for standard signs. The warehouse shall stock an inventory of standard bicycle use signs.

